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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography provides a survey of black literature which is of particular interest to students at the elementary and secondary levels. Lists of bibliographies and critical works concerning the teaching of black literature in the grades and of additional resources and periodicals of interest to the teacher of black literature are also given. (KS)

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A Selected Black Reading List

Helen R. Houston

Beckham, Barry. Runner Mack. New York: William Morrow and Co., Inc., 1972.

The story of Henry Adams, an aspiring baseball player, who leaves the South with his wife Beatrice to find fame and riches.

_____. My Main Mother. New York: Walker and Company, 1971.

The story of Mitchell Mibbs growing up in rural Maine and his transition to the city.

Childress, Alice. A Hero Ain't Nothin but a Sandwich. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1973.

The story of thirteen-year-old Benjie Johnson, a victim of drug addiction, his family, friends, and neighbors living in the Harlem ghetto.

Davis, Nolan. Six Black Horses. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1971.

The story of Lawrence Xavier Jordan, who becomes the leading Black mortician in Kansas City, Missouri.

Delany, Samuel R. Nova. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1968.

"Lorg Von Ray battles the naked diabolism of Prince and Ruby Red, the unchallenged ruling force of Draco."

_____. The Ballad of Beta 2. New York: Ace Books, 1965.

Joneny, an Anthropology student, was sent out on a quest to find the meaning of the Ballad of Beta 2, "the only clue that even hinted at what had happened to spaceship Beta-2's missing crew."

Fair, Ronald. We Can't Breathe. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.

The story of a young man growing up in the thirties and forties.

_____. Many Thousand Gone . New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1965.

A satirical fantasy set in a mythical Mississippi county where slavery had never been abolished.

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_____. Hog Butcher. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1966.

The story of two ten-year-old boys who witness the shooting of their friend, a local sports hero by two policemen. (The book has a new title: Cornbread and Me.)

Gaines, Ernest J. The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman. New York: Dial Press, 1971.

An account of a Black woman whose life spanned more than a century. Her story extends from the Emancipation Proclamation and her freedom to the 1950s.

_____. A Long Day in November. New York: Dial Press, 1971.

Sonny recounts the day his parents quarreled, separated and were reconciled through the aid of Madame Toussaint.

Hamilton, Virginia. The House of Dies Drear. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968.

A college professor and his family move to a southern Ohio Community which had been an important network of the Underground Railroad system to Canada during the Civil War. Mysterious things happen in their home.

_____. M. C. Higgins, The Great. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1974.

The story of Mayo Cornelius Higgins, a thirteen-year-old boy who lives on a mountainside near the Ohio River. He sits atop a forty-foot pole and "dreams of escape for himself and his family."

_____. The Planet of Junior Brown. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1971.

The story centers around Junior Brown, a 262-pound musical prodigy with a neurotic overprotective mother; Buddy Clark, a loner who has no family; and Mr. Pool, once a teacher but now a janitor.

_____. Zeely. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1967.

To Elizabeth "Greeder" Perry, Zeely is the embodiment of a dream. She finds a picture of a Watutsi queen and decides the regal Zeely must be a queen too. Only Zeely can bring Greeder to see reality.

Jackson, Jesse. The Fourteenth Cadillac. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1972.

The effects on a community in Columbus, Ohio of the death of Aunt Hettie, particularly her nephew, seventeen-year-old Stonewall Jackson.

_____. The Sickest Don't Always Die Quickest. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1971.

At age 12, Stonewall Jackson, a confirmed sinner becomes troubled by many unanswerable questions.

_____. Tessie. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.

The story of Tessie's struggles to maintain her place at Hobbe, an exclusive private school, without losing her place at home in Harlem.

Jordan, June. His Own Where. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971.

A Black love story about Buddy, sixteen, and Angela, fourteen, who escape their parents and school and create "their own where" in an empty house near a cemetery.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. Listen for the Fig Tree. New York: Viking Press, 1974.

Sixteen-year-old Muffin Johnson is blind and trying to get her mother through the first Christmas after Mr. Johnson's murder. She wants to attend her first Kwanza, an African celebration.

_____. A Teacup Full of Roses. New York: Viking Press, 1972.

"We experience this through Joe, whose life, and that of his younger brother Davey, is made miserable because of the extreme favoritism their mother has for her eldest, drug-addicted son, Paul."

Meriwether, Louise. Daddy Was a Number Runner. Englewood, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1970.

A year in the life of a twelve-year-old girl in Harlem in the 1930s.

Morrison, Toni. The Bluest Eye. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970.

The "tragic story of Pecola Breedlove, who is the neighbor and friend of Claudia (the narrator of most of the book) and her sister."

_____. Sula. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974.

The story of a friendship between two Black women, Nel and Sula, in The Bottom of Medallion, a small town in Ohio.

Reed, Ishmael. The Free-Lance Pallbearers. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1967.

The story of Bukka Doopeyduk in the kingdom of HARRY SAM.

_____. Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1969.

The story of the Loop Garoo Kid, a Black cowboy, and the town of Yellow Back Radio.

Young, Al. Snakes. New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1970.

The story of M. C. Moore, raised by his grandmother, who is a talented guitarist who forms a band that produces a "hit" recording while he is still in high school. This tells what happens to the band members under the influence of success.

Bibliographies and Books of Criticism

Baker, Augusta. The Black Experience in Children's Books. New York: The New York Public Library, 1971.

Annotated list of books for children through the age of 12.

Brown, Sterling. Outline for the Study of the Poetry of American Negroes. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Co., 1931.

Written to be used with James Weldon Johnson's The Book of American Negro Poetry.

Davis, Arthur P. From the Dark Tower: Afro-American Writers 1900-1960. Washington, D. C.: Howard University Press, 1974.

Deodene, Frank and William P. French. Black American Fiction Since 1952: A Preliminary Checklist. Chatham, N. J.: The Chatham Bookseller, 1970.

Annotated.

Dodds, Barbara. Negro Literature for High School Students. Champaign, Ill.: National Council of Teachers of English, 1968.

Annotated and indexed.

Gayle, Addison, Jr., ed. The Black Aesthetic. New York: Doubleday, 1972.

Criticism.

_____. The Black Situation. New York: Horizon Press, 1970.

Criticism.

_____. The Way of the New World: The Black Novel in America. New York: Doubleday, 1975.

Criticism.

Green, Elizabeth. The Negro in Contemporary American Literature: An Outline for Individual Geoup Study. College Park, Md.: McGrath Publishing Co., 1968.

Classified into four major areas: poetry, drama, fiction and criticism.

Johnson, Harry Alleyn, ed. Multimedia Materials for Afro-American Studies: A Curriculum Orientation and Annotated Bibliography of Resources. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1971.

McPherson, James M., Laurence B. Holland, et. al. Blacks in America: Bibliographical Essays. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1971.

Rollins, Charlemae, ed. We Build Together: A Reader's Guide to Negro Literature for Elementary and High School Use. Champaign, Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English, 1967.

Rowell, Charles Henry. "Afro-American Literary Bibliographies: An Annotated List of Bibliographical Guides for the Study of Afro-American Literature, Folklore and Related Areas." Ph. D. dissertation, The Ohio State University, 1972.

Shockley, Ann Allen and Sue P. Chandler. Living Black American Authors: A Biographical Directory. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1973.

Starke, Catherine Juanita. Black Portraiture in American Fiction: Stock Characters, Achetypes, and Individuals. New York: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1971.

Turner, Darwin T. Afro-American Writers. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1970.

Selective bibliography which emphasizes works published in the Twentieth Century, perhaps the most significant and useful bibliography published to date on Afro-American Literature.

Williams, Ora. American Black Women in the Arts and Social Sciences: A Bibliographical Survey. Metuchen, N. J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1973.

Williams, Sherley Anne. Give Birth to Brightness: A Thematic Study in Neo-Black Literature. New York: The Dial Press, 1972.

Additional Resources

"Afro-American Literature in Evanston," Illinois English Bulletin, 58 (November 1970), 1-28.

Alexander, Jean A. "Black Literature for the 'Culturally Deprived' Curriculum: Who Are the Losers?" Negro American Literature Forum, 4 (Fall 1970), 96-103.

Cooke, Gwendolyn J. "How Students Feel About Black Literature." Negro American Literature Forum, 8 (Winter 1974), 293-295.

"Curriculum Exchange," Negro American Literature Forum, 2 (Spring 1968), 8-9.

Farrison, W. Edward. "What American Literature Exists and Who Should Teach it?" CLA Journal, 13 (June 1970), 374-381.

Ford, Nick Aaron. "Black Literature and the Problem of Evaluation," College English, 32 (February 1971), 536-547.

_____, Donald B. Gibson and Charles A. Ray. "Black Literature: Problems and Opportunities -- A Symposium," CLA Journal, 13 (September 1969), 10-20.

Jeffers, Lance. "Afro-American Literature, The Conscience of Man," 2 (January 1971), 47-53.

Klotman, Phyllis R. "An Approach to the Teaching of Black Literature -- Or: What's a White Lady like You Doing in a Class Like This?" The CEA Critic, 34 (January 1972), 12-15.

Lindberg, John. "Discovering Black Literature," The North American Review, 254 (Fall 1969), 51-56.

Nower, Joyce. "The Traditions of Negro Literature in the United States," Negro American Literature Forum, 3 (Spring 1969), 5-12.

Rowell, Charles H. "On Teaching Works By and About Black Americans: A Review of Articles," Negro American Literature Forum, 3 (Summer 1969), 64-68.

Scott, John S. "Teaching Black Drama," Players, 47 (February-March 1972), 130-131.

Turner, Darwin T. "Literature and Society's Values," 60 (May 1971), 577-586.

_____ and Barbara Dodds Stanford. Theory and Practice in the Teaching of Literature by Afro-Americans. Urbana, Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English, 1971.

West, Carole Cannon and Allen Williams. "Awareness: Teaching Black Literature in Secondary School," Journal of Black Studies, 3 (June 1973), 455-471.

Whaley, Elizabeth Gates. "What Happens When You Put the Manchild in the Promised Land?: An Experience with Censorship," English Journal, 63 (May 1974), 61-65.

Periodicals

Black World (Generally, September is devoted to poetry, April to theater and June to fiction.)

CLA Journal

Freedomways

Journal of Black Studies

Phylon